GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LAW AND JUSTICE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3990
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2003
USE OF HINDI IN COURTS
JASWANT SINGH YADAV

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalked out any plan to promote the use of Hindi language in the various High Courts and Supreme Court of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS)

(a),(b) and (c) Article 348 (1) of the Constitution of India provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court shall be in English language until Parliament by law otherwise provides.

Under Article 348(2) the Governor of the State may with the previous consent of the President, authorise the use of the Hindi language or any other language used for any official purpose of the State, in the proceedings of the High Court having its principal seat in that State provided that decrees, judgements or orders passed by such High Courts shall be in English.

Under Section 7 of the Official Language Act, 1963, the use of Hindi or official language of a State in addition to the English language may be authorized, with the consent of the President of India, by the Governor of the State for the purpose of judgements etc. made by the High Court for that State.

So far the Governors of four States namely; Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have authorized the use of Hindi in addition to English language in the proceedings as well as the judgements decrees etc. of the High Courts in their States.

The matter of authorizing use of Hindi in Chhattisgarh High Court is pending before the Full Court of the Hon`ble Supreme Court of India.

At present no proposal is under consideration of the Government to authorize use of Hindi in any other High Court or the Supreme Court of India. However, the Registries of the Supreme Court of India and the Delhi High Court have been requested from time to time to encourage use of Hindi for administrative purposes.